

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, June 5, 2002, and clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 10:50 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 1050

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE JOHN HOWARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Richard Wilson, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the Honorable John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE);

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort the Honorable John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE);

The Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Honorable Jesse Bibiano Marehalau, Ambassador of Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable John Howard.

The Prime Minister of Australia, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you the Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE JOHN HOWARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister HOWARD. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President of the Senate, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Congress of the United States, may I say how very touched I am by the warmth and generosity of your welcome. I appreciate very deeply the honor that you have extended to me today, but more importantly, the honor you have extended to my country, Australia.

I, on behalf of the 90 million freedom-loving Australians, convey to you their deep affection and warm greetings and their sense of solidarity and friendship.

The bonds between Americans and Australians are as strong as they are genuine; and that is, of course, because we share so many values in common: A belief that the individual is more important than the state; a belief that strong families are a nation's greatest resource; a belief that competitive capitalism is the real key to national wealth; and a belief that decency and hard work define a person's worth, not class or race or social background.

My friends, let me say to you today that America has no better friend anywhere in the world than Australia. Australians and Americans enjoy each other's company. We share a love of sport, and in some of them we are fierce competitors, and we even from time to time share the Academy Awards.

When I last came to this great Chamber of democracy on the 12th of September last year, the smoke still hung in the air over New York and Washington. Brave and courageous policemen and firemen, with no regard for their own safety, searched in the hope of finding survivors. The scale of loss and destruction was yet to be fully calculated. In seeking justice and not revenge, in choosing calm consideration over blind fury, in turning to friends before turning on enemies, the United States of recent months has led a great reaffirmation of all of those great values and principles on which both of our societies are based.

America fought back magnificently, and in the process has won the admiration of the world. You demonstrated to the world that where fundamental freedoms flourish, evil men can do their worst, cause death and devastation, but in the end, they will never win.

In his inaugural address, George Washington spoke of the destiny of the American people to preserve the sacred fire of liberty. That promise has been kept for more than two centuries, but never more so than since the appalling events of September last year. Through these times, Australians have shared your shock and anger, and have been partners in your resolve. We have taken our place beside you in the fight against terrorism because what happened last year in the United States was as much an attack upon our nation and the values that we hold dear as it was upon yours.

And as we meet, Australian and American troops are fighting side by side in Afghanistan. It is our constant prayer that they all return safely home to their loved ones.

In these past months, President Bush has displayed the tenacity, the strength, and the depth of character of a very great leader. And he is also applying those great qualities to the tensions in the Indian subcontinent between India and Pakistan, and in the intractable situation in the Middle East.

It is a special privilege for me to return to this historic place to address the representatives of a great Nation of whose people we hold in such high regard, and for whom we feel great warmth and affection toward.

Like you, Australia enters the new century strong and prosperous. Over the past decade, the productivity and growth of our economy has been ahead of most other developed nations.

Our pioneer past, so similar to your own, has produced a spirit that can overcome adversity and pursue great dreams; where pursued, a society of opportunity, fairness and hope, leaving as